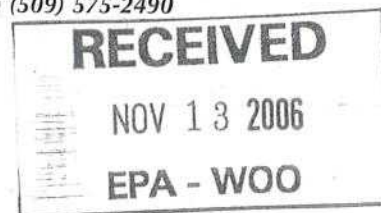




STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

15 West Yakima Avenue, Suite 200 • Yakima, Washington 98902-3452 • (509) 575-2490

November 9, 2006



**RE: Section 401 Water Quality Certification Application for
Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery / NPDES Permit No. WA 000190-2**

Dear Interested Party:

On October 30th, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) submitted a request to the Department of Ecology (Ecology) for a 401 water quality certification for EPA's National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES) permit. A water quality certification is a statement from the State certifying that a given project will meet all applicable state water quality requirements.

Ecology is requesting comment on the proposed project. We will consider your comments in our decision to issue, condition, or deny certification. That decision will be made based on the ability of the proposal to comply with the provisions of Washington's Water Pollution Control Act (RCW 90.48) and the Washington State Water Quality Standards (Chapter 173-201A WAC). The proposed NPDES permit can be found at Ecology's website:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/leavenworth_proposed_npdes_per-110806.pdf.

Comments should be sent to Denise Mills, Section Manager Water Quality Program, Washington Department of Ecology, Central Region, 15 W. Yakima Ave, Suite 200, Yakima, Washington, 98902. Comments also may be emailed to pir1461@ecy.wa.gov. Comments are due by **November 29, 2006, 5 p.m.**

If you have any questions, please call Pat Irle at (509) 454-7864.

Sincerely,

Denise E. Mills, LHG
Section Manager
Water Quality Program

DEM:cmr

cc: Dave Ragsdale, EPA, Lacey

